

Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 17, 1886.

ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.

From the Lawrence Daily Journal.

The Wichita Eagle has a larger circulation than any paper in Kansas, and a larger circulation in the state than either of the Kansas City papers. Its growth as a daily has been even more stupendous and phenomenal than that of the magical and wonder-working city in which it is published.

This coming from one of the oldest editors of the state, who is undoubtedly one of the most competent judges of the relative standing of the various dailies to which he alludes, is a little astonishing, but probably not more astonishing than true. It is very certain that the EAGLE's circulation by news dealers in the towns of the southwest and by train boys, is phenomenal, and it is a circulation that has grown in and of itself, and not through agents or solicitors. The news men simply telegraph their orders and they are filled at the train or by express. The EAGLE has made no blow about this, for the simple reason that its proprietors have not believed that there was any profit in the "circulation racket." But as the subject is up, without affirming or denying the Daily Journal's assertion as to general circulation, we will say and declare that there are a greater number of EAGLES distributed by carrier in the city of Wichita than there is of any other daily in any other city in the state of Kansas. The EAGLE's circulation in this city is in charge of a circulator, an assistant and nine boys.

THE UPPER NILE.

Among the many distinguished men who have visited this part of the state within the past few months, we do not remember to have seen the Hon. M. M. Murdock, of the WICHITA EAGLE. Will the gentleman who in the near future is to come before the people of the state as a candidate for governor please explain this neglect? No man should even pretend to be a Kansan unless he has visited the upper Arkansas Valley, and enjoyed the advantage of kicking against the people who have reclaimed the country and made the desert bloom with the harvest of wheat and corn.—Garden City Daily Sentinel.

Brother Contant has thrown into the above brief paragraph subject matter enough for a two column reply. But we dodge the two column job by admitting (1) that we do not rank among the distinguished, (2) that we are not a candidate, (3) that any explanation we might offer would not suffice, (4) that we are out of kicks and have nothing but praise left for the people who have caused that country to "bloom with the harvest of wheat and corn."

ELIAS S. STOVER.

Major E. S. Stover, formerly lieutenant governor of Kansas, but for several years past a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, had a hand so badly shattered by the discharge of a gun while out hunting the other day that amputation was necessary.—Newton Republican.

Major Stover represented Sedgewick county and this entire portion of the state, including what is now Harvey county and all southwest in the state senate in 1870 and in 1871, at which time he lived in Council Grove, Morris county. His district reached within thirty-five miles of Topeka and was 125 miles wide by 300 miles long on an average, a district which to-day contains more than one-fourth of the entire inhabitants of the state. He was afterwards elected lieutenant governor of the state and was also afterwards a candidate for the United States senate. His many old friends will be sorry to hear of his serious mishap.

The threatened panic of Wednesday, on Wall street, New York, has happily been averted.

Senator Ingalls has already introduced three bills relating to pensions. One is to increase the pension for the loss of an eye to \$30 per month; another to increase it to \$40 for the loss of a hand or foot.

Before Representative Price, of Wisconsin, died on Monday, he requested that the usual congressional ceremonies at his funeral be omitted. Accordingly the committee named to attend his funeral did not go.

Somebody has been imposing on this innocent Democratic administration again, by securing the appointment of one Albert Geppert to be postmaster in northern Dakota. Geppert was arrested in Racine in 1881 for stealing \$1,000, and he confessed his guilt.

The Rev. Alexander Mackay Smith, who was elected assistant bishop of Kansas, has written to the Rev. Dr. Beatty, of Lawrence, that he cannot see his way to accept the office to which he has been elected. This is a great disappointment to the members of the Episcopal church in Kansas.

The husbands of Washington territory are beginning to kick against their wives going on juries. One of them writes as follows to his local paper: "My wife has been gone away on the jury four days. I have not had a square meal since she left. My children are crying for bread and everything goes wrong. I am hungry, angry and all out of sorts in every respect. I write this to warn that persons who advocate woman's rights in my presence again to be a very large man, and if ever the sheriff comes after my wife again, he had better bring a posse with him, for my shotgun is loaded and I will not hesitate to use it."

The committee appointed by the board of trade to visit Wichita, in the interest of a direct railroad connection between that place and this last Friday, and had a most agreeable and satisfactory conference. That city is awake to the importance of a connection with every substantial town in southern Kansas and Medicine Lodge is regarded as one of the best. The committee of twenty business men of that city offered, by resolution, to cooperate with Medicine Lodge in any movement that has for its object the inducing of some company to build a line between the two points. They also made several valuable suggestions to our committee that have already been acted on, and which we have great hope of bringing forth fruits. Messrs. W. W. Cook, T. A. McNeal, O. C. Ewart and E. P. Caruthers went up from this city and at Wichita met Jas. A. Blair, who came down from Kansas City for the purpose of co-operating with them.—Barber Index.

MUST BE OPENED.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY AND OKLAHOMA.

What Our Regular Correspondent Finds Down There in the Way of Country, Boomers and Cattle.

Last Monday for the first time a regular train was made up at Arkansas City to run over the completed portion of the line which the Santa Fe railway company is extending into the Indian Territory. Over eleven years ago during the floods of 1875, the writer traveled over the territory traversed by this line on horseback, swimming nearly every creek and river between Fort Sill and the state line. This was before Payne's boomers had made the Territory famous by their futile attempt to open it to settlement. Under the circumstances I was not prepared to appreciate the rich soil and beautiful scenery. The only view that possessed any attractions for me at that time was the trail that led by the most direct route to Kansas.

Wednesday morning I boarded the train at Arkansas City with the purpose of gratifying a curiosity to see a portion of the same territory from the car window that I had seen years before under much less advantageous circumstances.

The first three and one-half miles of the route lies in Kansas. Half a mile south of the depot the Arkansas river is crossed. Then for three miles the train runs through fine farms, which the farmers of Bolton township, in Cowley, have by fifteen years of careful industry transformed into a garden. These improvements continue up to the state line, then comes a change that is almost startling. The improvements cease and an uncultivated plain as wild as Kansas was in the days of Coronado, stretches away to the south. To the southwest the Chilocco Indian school can be seen. Surrounding it is several square miles of land enclosed with a barbed wire fence. The school is conducted on about the same plan as the agricultural college at Manhattan.

Three miles south of the line at a crossing of Chilocco creek, a company of United States soldiers belonging to the 5th cavalry, are stationed. Their instructions are to allow no boomers to enter the Territory, or hunters without a permit to carry game out. On the banks of the creek is a fine stone quarry. The railroad company on the hundred feet included in its right of way, has secured an immense quantity of stone for bridging.

About ten miles south of Chilocco creek west of the railroad, is the ranch of the Standard Oil Cattle company. Their range includes ten miles square, or 100 sections, equivalent to 64,000 acres, as rich land as can be found in the Arkansas valley. The ranch has good houses, barns, sheds, corrals and other improvements of a permanent character, which afford ample evidence that the occupants are there to stay.

A short distance south of this ranch is Willows, the first station in the Territory. It is about eighteen miles south of Arkansas City. South of this station the road enters the Ponca reservation. Most of the families composing the tribe are located near the agency. Their settlement makes about the same showing, in the way of improvements, that a new community in Kansas will make in a single season. The agency buildings which are located on high ground on the east bank of Salt Fork present a good appearance from the railroad, which runs within about two miles of the Ponca capital. The second station known as Ponca is two or three miles north of the agency, and about thirty miles south of the state line. From Ponca the road bears southwest, crossing the Salt Fork and following the valley on the right side of the stream for two or three miles. This stream is somewhat larger than Little river which it resembles in its general features.

The road so far as passenger traffic is concerned terminates at the crossing of Red Rock Creek, over forty miles from where the road enters the Territory. The track is laid five miles further. Work on the grade has extended nearly to the Texas line. The work on the road is being conducted with that consummate skill and energy that has made the Santa Fe the pride of Kansas and one of the most powerful corporations of the country. Of the nature of the soil and natural resources of the country tributary to the road is only necessary to say that it is similar to the territory comprising Sedgewick and Sumner counties, slightly more rolling perhaps, and possessing the advantage of rich coal deposits. Beyond the present terminus of the road the country becomes more broken with more timber and water and more waste lands.

The present terminus of the completed portion of the road is now in the Otter reservation. Beyond this reservation the survey has been changed so as to run through Oklahoma instead of through the lands of the Iowas, Kickapoos and Potawatamies. In answer to the oft-repeated question, when will the lands in the Indian Territory be opened for settlement, it may be answered that it is already opened to a certain class. The members of the rich cattle syndicates go and come or remain on the land at their pleasure and subject only to their own rules and regulations. The parties in this scheme are the government and the cattlemen. The poor Indian is only a figure-head. No farmer has attempted to invade a foot of land belonging to the Indians. It is only the hands claimed by the cattle barons that is in danger. Under pretense of protecting the rights of the Indian, they are simply protecting the wealthy occupants who now hold large tracts on bogus leases without color of title.

Mayor Ames, of Minneapolis, proposes to contest the election of Governor-elect McGill, and on the day of the latter's inauguration will invade St. Paul, headed by a drum corps, march to the Capitol, and take the oath of office.

CONFESSIONS OF A SMART ALECK.

To the Editor of the Eagle.

This city of Wichita is the boomiest city that I have ever seen from any standpoint you view her. And I have seen Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, Los Angeles, Portland, Oregon, and Omaha. I saw all these towns at their best. In none of them were there such constant throngs of human beings on the move for so many hours every day as we have here on Main street and Douglas avenue from early morn till late at night.

Two years and six months ago on any day except Saturday, one could stand in a wagon on Douglas avenue or Main street and count every soul on both sides of the street for one block with ease in one or two minutes. All us old fogies then thought that the town was badly overdone. Everyone, I except none that I saw then, thought then was the time to sell our lots. I recollect that I "dowed" a fellow about then for \$1,000. I made \$200. For this I was sort of looked up to. That fellow sold that property in two years for \$4,500. I had another greenie out for upwards of \$5,000, and made about \$1,200 on it. I met the knowing smarties, of whom I used to be one. Some said I was a second Rothschild; others, who knew me better, said a fool for luck and a nigger for gourd.

You made a note then of these great big transactions. Well, I have lately sneaked around to that man that I dowed so badly and just whined to him to take \$12,000 for the littlest end of that property. But he met me with a cold, calm, "no." He is worth a hundred thousand or so outside of Kansas. I used to own 52 feet of our "via El Dorado." I parted with it for about enough money to have bought one block of the street three years ago. I now mourn for that \$25,000 worth of property as only could the whang doodle for its young. Lo! I am banished from Douglas avenue for ever! I dowed some of these eastern greenies handsomely, on other of their worthless overblown property. I used to think that my track in this city was strewn with the wreck of the blighted hopes of fresh speculators. I used then to congratulate myself on being a very smart aleck. I am now singing very low, like Maud Muller, "Alas, it might have been"—a quarter of a million if I had had sense enough to catch on to the difference between inflated cities on a superficial boom and a mighty commercial giant just moving majestically along fooling the old settlers, the smarties; and just making rich men out of the poor devils who could not get sold out like a nimble fellow could, and so were overlooking blind fortune because no one would swap places with them.

Well, the time that all us fellows, who knew it all, predicted for the crash to come is passed now. It did crash, though, crashed right through our prophecies. I took a long look today, in the cold wind, up and down Douglas and Main—tramp, tramp, hum, hum, um, um, um,—a ceaseless stream of humanity. I could not count them as they passed by me. A thousand strange faces passed me by before I was even recognized by a bill collector. 100,000 dollars transfers of real estate every day and night here at the end of the year. And you of the EAGLE are said to be over-zealous in this matter. But you do not get all the transfers. I think your reporters have overlooked \$100,000 this summer and fall. I had a \$6,000 sale a few weeks back and you never published it in the transfer. I am not near as much disappointed at your omission as that I sold that property at all.

There are two individuals that I am now showing, i. e., the fool-killer and a greenie from the east who wants want little property I have left. I will admit that we are all going to bust on this boom; that we will be downed by every malign influence this side of sheol, but I want to just keep a little property to see if I can't catch up partially with a streak of lightning that struck near me. I dedicate this to the prophets whom I consorted with to my sorrow—if they are alive. H.

TALKS RIGHT OUT.

From the Barber County Times.

The Wichita & Trinidad railroad is in no way connected with the Rock Island road. Mr. Lowe, of the latter road, says so, and he knows. Our people all hoped that it was a Rock Island scheme, for that is one road we are anxious to have come here. It is not known now what system, if any, the Wichita & Trinidad company is connected with. The members of the company are considerably scattered; some of them living in Wichita, the secretary in Anthony and the treasurer in Edwando. Certain it is, however, that two outside routes have been adopted from Wichita to this place—one direct by N. M. avenue due to Harper and then across this place. Now, if some good company anxious to get into this country, would buy and adopt the survey made by the Wichita & Trinidad people, it would be a good thing for all concerned.

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